



# Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

U.S. House Education & the Workforce Committee ■ John Boehner, Chairman  
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<http://edworkforce.house.gov/edwatch>

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## Bipartisan Deal Empowers Parents, Local Schools

Republicans and Democrats on the House Education & the Workforce Committee have reached a tentative agreement to move forward with H.R. 1, President Bush's *No Child Left Behind Act* education reform bill. The bipartisan agreement includes:

### UNPRECEDENTED LOCAL FLEXIBILITY

- H.R. 1 dramatically enhances flexibility for local school districts, giving them the freedom to transfer up to 50 percent of the federal education dollars they receive among an assortment of ESEA programs as long as they demonstrate results. **Local school districts do not have to receive permission from the state or the education secretary to transfer funds.**

### PRESIDENT BUSH'S SAFETY VALVE INITIATIVE

- The Chairman's mark allows parents to use Title I funds to provide supplementary educational services -- including tutoring, after school services, and summer school programs -- for their children. Parents will choose from a list of providers that meet certain criteria, including **private faith-based providers.**
- H.R. 1 gives parents the option of **removing their children from failing schools immediately** after the school is identified as failing and sending them to another, better-performing public school of their choice. Parents would receive this option **immediately** when a school is identified as failing after one year.

### Message of the Day

***No Child Left Behind empowers parents with new options and offers hope for students in failing schools.***

- *Flexibility gives local school districts the freedom to target resources where they're needed most -- from class size reduction to higher teacher salaries to technology in the classroom -- and address needs that often change from one year to the next.*
- *The bill provides a safety valve for children trapped in failing schools, offers hope to disadvantaged students, and enhances parents' ability to make informed choices about their children's education.*

### DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- H.R. 1 requires states and local schools to demonstrate results through annual reading and math assessments for students in grades three through eight. The plan authorizes \$400 million to help states design the tests.
- The Chairman's mark prohibits federally sponsored national testing, federally controlled curriculum, as well as any mandatory national teacher test or certification.
- The bill requires states and school districts to prepare annual report cards on their schools to better inform them about the quality of their child's school.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

*"This may be the most important moment in American education since 1965. We are on the threshold of the first real effort to refocus the federal role in education toward its original goal of helping students who need help the most. Let's make sure this opportunity doesn't pass us by."* **Education & the Workforce Committee Chairman John Boehner, April 26, 2001**